

The main characters of the aberration are as follows. On the upper side the red area on the fore-wing is more widely extended, obliterating the usual black patch in the middle of interspace 1, and the submarginal red band on the hind-wing does not include the black spots that are found in typical examples. On the under side the differences are still more marked; the red area on the fore-wing is even more widely extended, and the subapical white streaks and spots in the black area have disappeared; the hind-wing is almost entirely suffused with pale gray scales, leaving only a few nebulous patches of brown. If this specimen had been captured on the wing it might have suggested a natural hybrid between *indica* and *cardui*.

From a subsequent batch of larvæ that pupated under similar conditions I obtained two normal examples of the butterfly and one aberration precisely similar to the first.

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30. On "*Megaderma lyra*," its Habits and Parasites.—In a previous number of this Journal I have called attention to the carnivorous habits of bats of the genus *Megaderma*. I have found frequent signs of its depredations in the remains of birds and small bats dropped in my verandah. I have since seen the fragments of a mouse (consisting of the feet and part of the head, mingled with the characteristic excreta of a bat) that had evidently been captured and devoured by the same animal. But, until quite recently, I had never come to close quarters with the bat itself. Examination of a loft above the Royal Botanic Gardens Laboratory has, however, revealed a stronghold of *Megaderma lyra*. They were found to be swarming with a minute dipterous parasite, allied to the "tick-flies" (*Hippobosca*). The common bat parasite (*Nycteribia*) belongs to the same family (*Pupipara*), but is apterous. The parasite of *Megaderma* has small but fully developed wings and is capable of flight.

The destruction of small birds, due to these vampire bats, must be enormous. Day after day, for weeks together, I have found my verandah strewn with the wings and feathers of small birds, principally of the dainty little honey-sucker (*Cinnyris zeylonicus*). It would be interesting to know how the bat effects its capture. Though extremely agile on the wing, a bat is but a clumsy animal when it has to rely upon progress by means of its feet and claws alone. When the bat is abroad, the bird is snugly roosting in the recesses of a bush. How does the bat discover the presence of its prey? Does it enter and explore bush after bush on the chance of happening upon a sleeping bird, or does it scent them from a distance and then hunt them down in their retreat?

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